




From Tom Margro, General Manager

Good Cheer for the Holidays

As we close 2002, I wish all BART employees happiness, good fortune and the joy of family togetherness. I desire the best for you as you join with family and friends to celebrate during this holiday season.

I believe 2002 was a year of accomplishments for BART. We officially marked 30 years of service to the people of the Bay Area. We responded to the events of September 11th with reinforced security measures to ensure the safety of our people and our customers. We completed 90 percent of our systemwide renovation project, including a \$87 million upgrade to our shops and maintenance yards to move BART cars faster through routine maintenance and better prepare us for opening our extension to the San Francisco International Airport in early 2003. We ran our first train from Colma to San Bruno on February 24 and into the San Francisco Airport on July 29. Keeping with our leadership role in new technology,

our prototype Advanced Automatic Train Control system was approved for full implementation. This "moving block" technology will track trains to within 15 feet of their location, meaning we can move trains faster through the Transbay Tube. This new system is scheduled to be ready to go next year. We achieved all of this, and more, during a very difficult economic time at BART. We could not have been successful without your dedication to BART as a world-class transit system.

Again, I wish you all a joyful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your hard work and commitment. I look forward to our continued progress in 2003. 



Couple Takes Vows on Wedding Train in Niles Canyon



Jim Evans and Kathy O'Lander Evans decided to get married in a fashion only dreamed of by most rail buffs – aboard a restored vintage train traveling along a route of the original Transcontinental Railroad.

The big day was August 24, with guests gathering in Sunol and boarding a train that sported restored engines from Southern Pacific Lines and vintage passenger and freight cars built from 1910 to 1930. Operated by the Pacific Locomotive Association (PLA), the train featured a

locomotive built in 1945 by General Electric Corporation and used by the U.S. Navy in Oakland, and another – kept spiffy with the traditional orange and black colors of SP – built in 1949 by General Motors. The second locomotive had been retired by SP in the 1970s and lovingly restored by members of the PLA, which runs train rides into Niles Canyon on a seasonal basis. The open-air rail cars were decorated with paper wedding bells and streamers. Overhead canopies protected wedding

Continued on back page

Robert Cotton Medals at World Masters Games

A trip to Melbourne, Australia to watch his brother defend his world title in diving turned into one of life's most thrilling moments for Robert Cotton. Robert now proudly displays three gold medals in diving from the World Masters Games, signaling his place as a world class athlete.

Sanctioned by the International Masters Games Association, the World Masters Games were established in 1985 to celebrate "Sport for Life." The games constitute a unique sporting festival where competition and participation are equally recognized and valued. Held every three years, the Melbourne games were the 5th Annual World Masters Games. Athletes enter events by skill and age category. Events include tennis, swimming, diving, badminton, basketball, baseball, golf, weightlifting, squash, table tennis, volleyball, beach volleyball, cricket and rugby, among others.

Robert, his four brothers and father traveled to Melbourne for the games held October 5-13 to watch his brother, David, defend his title in 10-meter platform diving. He did exactly that, winning gold medals in one-meter springboard, three-meter springboard and 10-meter platform in his age 45-49 category. "Because we came so far, we figured why not join in the fun," said Robert, who decided to enter competitions in diving and mountain biking.

Robert won three diving events in the age 40-44 category – one-meter springboard, three-meter springboard and three-meter platform. "I ended up being the only participant in this age category, so after performing all of my dives correctly, I was awarded a gold medal in each event," Robert said. He

received his medals atop a platform during a ceremony before hundreds of spectators at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. "It was one of the thrilling moments of my life," said Robert. "To be standing on an awards stand and have them announce your name, then place a medal around your neck, is a pretty tremendous experience. The only thing missing was the national anthem."

Robert and his brother, Phillip, entered the mountain bike race for age 40-44. It was held October 6 at Anderson Scout Park, which has played host to a number of elite mountain bike events. The 5-km course was a mix of bush trails, winding single tracks and aggressive inclines and declines. Four laps were required to complete the race. "The winner finished his final lap as I finished my third, so I came in 19th out of 55 racers," said Robert. His brother came in 28th. "It was a fun and technical course with 95 percent single-track trails and some very steep climbs; it was very challenging."

From its humble beginnings in Toronto in 1985, the World Masters Games have grown to be the biggest multi-sport festival in the world. The International Olympic Committee officially recognized the World Masters Games in 2001.

Robert has participated twice in U.S. Masters diving events, while his brother, David, holds 15 or more national titles in U.S. Masters diving.

The Cotton family had a chance to enjoy Melbourne and Sidney for a week following the games. "It's a great place to visit," said Robert. "The people were very friendly and I learned some very fun slang terms." **b**



Counter-clockwise from upper left: Vicki Wills, Media & Public Affairs and Pat Patubo, Transportation, Operations Planning; Five Furry Friends; Mae Meidav, Maintenance & Engineering; Hamad Tafaghodi, Civil/Structure Engineering; Janice Bagaw, Design Engineering **b**

Remembering Hadwick A. Thompson, David G. Hammond

BART has lost two very cherished members of its family with the passing of Hadwick A. Thompson and David G. Hammond.

Retired **BART Police Officer Hadwick A. Thompson**, a member of BART's original cadre of officers, passed away on July 30 at age 82. An Oakland resident, Hadwick had retired from BART in 1979, spending his later years involved in several community groups and the Navy League.

Hadwick devoted his life to public service. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy before World War II and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. After serving his country, Hadwick joined the Oakland Police Department, where he was an officer for over 25 years. Hadwick joined the BART Police Department in September 1972 as the system opened for revenue service. "Hadwick was a very personable and community-oriented officer," said BART Police Chief Gary Gee.

Col. David G. Hammond, U.S. Army (retired), an engineer who oversaw the design, construction and early operations of BART, died October 2 in a retired officers' community in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He was 89. He served as the Assistant General Manager of Engineering and Operations from 1964-1973, directing all engineering activities and getting the system ready for operations.

His service to BART was preceded with service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which he joined in 1937 after earning a degree in civil engineering from

Cornell University. His military career took him to the Aleutian Islands, the Philippines, Japan, Korea and Omaha, Neb., where he oversaw construction of dams and missile bases. He retired from the Army in 1964, joining BART the same year that President Lyndon B. Johnson presided over groundbreaking ceremonies at a 4.4-mile test track. He left BART in 1973, the year after revenue service began between Oakland and Fremont and the year the Transbay Tube was completed.

Col. Hammond was regarded as an international expert in rail transit tunneling and underground construction. After BART, he joined the international transportation-engineering firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall, where he directed the joint venture that developed engineering and design for the Baltimore Regional Rapid Transit System. He also was project director for the joint venture that built the Southern California Rapid Transit District. He retired in 1986 and consulted in transit and tunneling until the early 1990s. In 1969, he was named to the Top 10 public works "Men of the Year" and in 1981, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the profession's highest honors. In 1986, the American Public Transportation Association elected him to the Transit Hall of Fame.

Funeral services were held October 21 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, where he was laid to rest alongside his wife of more than 50 years, Joan Morse Hammond. Col. Hammond is survived by family in California, Virginia and Pennsylvania. **b**

Do You Have a Rail Good Idea?

In the tradition of awarding BART employees for great ideas that help make a difference, *Rail Good Ideas* has launched as the "new and improved" employee suggestion program.

Rail Good Ideas encourages broad employee participation and recognition, simplifies the evaluation process, and speeds up the decision and award cycle. It is the result of an employee survey, discussions with employees and managers and an assessment based on current industry standards and best practices. The former program was suspended last summer to process pending suggestions, develop and install a software system supporting the new program, and train Idea Specialists in standardized evaluation.

All BART employees will receive a *Rail Good Ideas* guidebook, which explains policies and procedures and provides sample forms. The guidebook contains specific criteria for what makes a suggestion valid, and explains the evaluation

process. A table with suggestion cash awards also is included.

Active and retired employees are eligible to participate in the program. For a copy of the guidebook and/or Employee Suggestion Submission Form, please contact Hershell Levi at (510) 464-6264. Please send all suggestions to the Performance and Learning Department, Attention: Employee Suggestion Coordinator, 25 Fourth Street (STB), Oakland, CA 94607. Submissions may also be faxed to (510) 464-6386. New forms are available at work locations or can be printed online via webBART. Beginning next spring, employees will be able to submit their suggestions online.

Everyone is invited to participate in *Rail Good Ideas* and share their creativity with the rest of the organization. If you do not receive a *Rail Good Ideas* guidebook, please contact Lee Kirk at (510) 464-6288 or e-mail lkirk@bart.gov. **b**

Employee Suggestion Awards

BART employees help increase efficiency and save costs by presenting their ideas for improving BART operations to the Employee Suggestion Program. They are duly rewarded for proposals that succeed. (Please note, some awards represent a net payment once state and federal taxes have been deducted.) Here are recent awardees and their ideas:

Jeffrey Brooks

Maintenance Worker III, Rolling Stock & Shops

Lubricating the car coupler tension block was made difficult by the zerk fitting being located in a place that was nearly inaccessible. Jeffrey suggested installing a 45-degree grease fitting to allow the lubrication gun to more easily connect with the grease fitting and save time. He received a \$200 customer service award.

Oscar David

Maintenance Worker III, Rolling Stock & Shops

The end door dampner and connecting rod arm were held in place by a roll pin, which often fell out, requiring replacement of the entire unit to replace the roll pin. Oscar suggested securing the roll pin with a safety wire to keep it from coming undone, thereby reducing downtime caused by door jams and taking cars out of service. He received a \$200 customer service award.

Ada L. King

Survey Taker, Customer Service & Performance Research

Ada King thought that placing signs in the restrooms in BART Stations to remind patrons to flush the toilets would help prevent unpleasant odors and improve sanitation. The idea had a positive impact on Station restroom appearance, earning Ada a customer service award of \$150.

Thanks for the Memories

Former BART employee Rowena Jang of Daly City told us she enjoyed the ride along memory lane in our 30th Anniversary story and photos published in the last issue of *BARTalk*, as shared through this letter:

"Thank you for including a photograph of me in your publication of the 30th year of service for BART. I was delighted and will show my granddaughter this publication where I used to work. I am sure both Art Richardson and Jack Veasy are also delighted; standing between them made me look even shorter! I miss the people at BART. Thank you again. I wish you all continued success in your service to the community." **b3**

John C. Lynch

Maintenance Worker III, Maintenance & Engineering

Failed micro switches are difficult to troubleshoot, as the problem is often intermittent, while reverser problems can cause delays in revenue service. John suggested replacing the reverse micro switches during PM service to improve vehicle reliability and reduce down time. He received a customer service award of \$150.

David Mohn

Employee Development Specialist, Operations Training

A component failure on the LVPS DC to DC control circuit board caused damage to the board. David recommended installing one AMP fuse in series with the circuit input to DC-DC converters to prevent damage to the LVPS control boards. The idea prevented circuit board damage and was calculated to save the District approximately \$13,550 over a five-year period. David received a cost savings award of \$3,387.50.

William G. Stanley, retired

Maintenance Worker III, Rolling Stock & Shops

An outside vendor handled inventory ordering for open bin hardware. This arrangement had led to overspending, overstocking, stock outages and non-conforming hardware. William suggested changing the ordering system to use a detailed document and process that gave the department more control and eliminated outages in parts and materials. William received a \$200 customer service award.

John C. Westlie

Employee Development Specialist, Rolling Stock & Shops

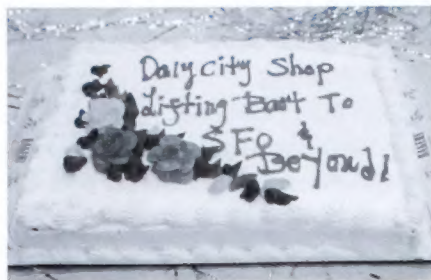
Rail control toggle switches on high-rail cars were subject to independent operation by an operator, requiring both switches to be in the down position to prevent error. Jack recommended fabricating a guard that would lock both switches in the down position, thereby ensuring correct alignment and reducing the risk of derailment. He received a customer service award of \$150. **b3**

Correction: The previous issue of *BARTalk* published the pictures and names of employees who recently achieved five years of perfect attendance. One name, that of Transit Vehicle Mechanic **Melvin Bacani**, was misspelled as Melvin Banaci. *BARTalk* regrets the error and congratulates Melvin on this noble accomplishment as a BART employee. **b3**



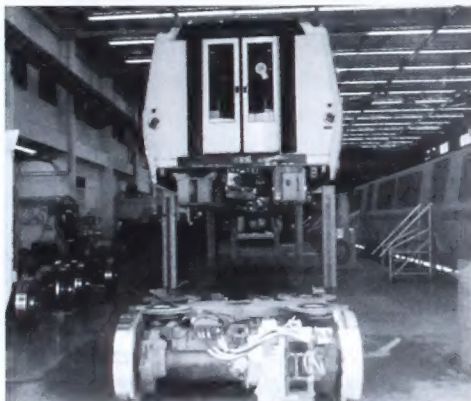
Daly City Shop Expansion Completed

BART celebrated the completion of the Daly City Shop Expansion with a ceremony on October 29 unveiling two state-of-the-art mechanical lifts that will make repairs and maintenance on BART's vehicle fleet easier and more efficient.



The lifts allow access to the underside of BART cars more readily than the now outmoded maintenance pits to better facilitate installation and removal of car components. The modern equipment also makes the work environment safer for BART mechanics. New lifts also were recently installed at BART shops in Concord, Richmond and Hayward as part of improvements to prepare all of the yards for the expansion of BART service to the San Francisco International Airport. The four new Stations in South San Francisco, San Bruno, the San Francisco Airport and Millbrae are set to open in early 2003.

The expanded Daly City facility also sports a wheel truing machine, two new transfer tracks and two new crossover tracks, the first car washing facility in the West Bay and other



significant improvements. The \$18 million project was completed 10 weeks ahead of schedule. It is part of BART's 10-year, \$1.2 billion systemwide renovation program, which is now 90 percent complete.



Among those on hand for the ribbon cutting were (pictured left to right) BART Board Vice President Pete Snyder, Congressman Tom Lantos, BART Director James Fang and BART General Manager Tom Margro.



Also on hand for the event were (front row, pictured left to right) Alex Jennings, Rob Chiesa, Congressman Tom Lantos, Dennis Wilkerson, Ray Kawamoto, Ken Shum and Alan Evangelista; (back row, left to right) Tony Buitrago, Bob Chavira, Richard Altamirano, Al Mock, Mike Nagel, John Lynch and Jaime Sandavol.

Bowl Away the Holidaze

Brrrrr! Winter will soon be here! Come in from the cold and have some Holiday Cheer with your friends in the BART Bowling League. Here's the latest from the BART bowlers!


Late summer and fall league play got off to a rousing start on August 24 at Manor Bowl in San Leandro. Top Game went to Johnnie Hicks (248) and Glenda Olson (223), while Top Series went to Andy Williams (626) and Suzanne Hicks (563). Top Five included Johnnie, Andy, Glenda, Joe Olson and Suzanne. Reggie Lewis also was along for the fun.

Things kept sizzling on September 21 as the calendar gave way to the fall, with cool breezes at Pinole Valley Lanes. Andy Williams earned the Top Game (216), along with Suzanne Hicks (179). Top Series went to Joe Olson (551) and Glenda Olson (481), keeping the series in the

family! Joining in the fun was Johnnie Hicks.

"The handicap system keeps the scoring fair and pretty even," notes Andy Williams, league organizer. "So, there's something for everyone, from beginner to seasoned pro. And we do this for fun and friendship, not competition."

Fall leaves were bright and plentiful at the tournament held October 26 at Albany Bowl. Johnnie Hicks came back to repeat Top Game (264), while Glenda Olson also repeated (253). Top Series went to Andy Williams (634) and Suzanne Hicks (580). Joining in the fun were David Hood, Harry Straub and Joe Olson.

Don't miss out! Get the 411 on the December bowling tournament from Andy Williams at ext. 5153 or Glenda Olson at ext. 2794. See you at the bowling alley! 

Wedding Train *continued from front page*

guests from the warm summer sun.

An area formerly known as "The Spot" in Niles Canyon was the destination for the wedding ceremony as guests enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and beverages on the ride into the woods. It was a peaceful setting along Alameda Creek. The ceremony was officiated by Jim's cousin, Reverend James O. Evans, who traveled to California from Louisiana with his wife, Dorothy, for the event. Ching-Chi Wu joined Jim as his Best Man, while Dalene Bender served as Matron of Honor for Kathy. The ceremony was made more joyous with "ring bearers" Bogart, Jim's Scottish terrier, and Watson, Kathy's West Highland white terrier. The dogs sat patiently during the entire ceremony, dutifully holding the rings, then retired to the caboose for long naps as guests ate and celebrated the newlyweds.

The train then proceeded into the town of Niles where it turned around and traveled back into the canyon to another area known by Niles Canyon historians as "Joyland Park," where Jim and Kathy cut their wedding cake, and then the party returned to Sunol. Congratulations to Jim, who works in BART's access planning division, and Kathy, who is an administrative assistant to the operations manager for a Norwegian shipping company. The couple resides in Burlingame.

b



Above: Jim and Kathy with just a few of the many guests.

Right: Pictured left to right; Bogart, the Scottish Terrier, Jim's Ring Bearer and Watson, the West Highland white Terrier, Kathy's Ring Bearer



Estate Sale

1940s Vintage Furniture. Duncan Phyfe dining table & 4 chairs; chrome & formica kitchen table & 3 chairs; pre-1940s Queen Ann chair & ottoman; and misc. items. All items must go! Very low prices. All need TLC.

Please call Dale at 510/793-0492.

Cabin for Rent in Twain Harte Area.

Two blocks to private beach & horse area (paddle & rowboats, slide off dock). Nearby lakes for boating, fishing and river rafting. Historic parks & caves nearby. Snow ski in winter. Fully equipped, sleeps 8. \$175/weekend, \$65/weekday, \$400/week. Call Sue at ext. 3701 or 925/828-4636.

Breathtaking View and Sunsets!

Townhouse for rent in Lake Tahoe. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fully furnished and equipped. Half-mile to casinos, nightlife, golf course, beach, ski slopes, etc. Located in Lake Village, NV. Adjacent to the national forests for great walks and hiking. \$225-300 per day. Call Ted at 510/659-7949.

Time to clean out those drawers, closets and garages! BARTalk's Trash and Treasures column offers you an opportunity to pick up some extra cash for those unwanted items you no longer need. Send your ads—no telephone calls—to *Trash & Treasures*, BARTalk, LMA-1; E-mail to *vwills*; or Fax to 510-464-7118.

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A publication for and about the employees of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

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